

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/986,643
Response dated January 20, 2004
Reply to OA of October 20, 2003

REMARKS

The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added. It is believed that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated October 20, 2003.

In the outstanding Action, the following rejections are set forth:

- (1) claims 1 - 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on Myers; and
- (2) Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) based on Myers in view of the "admitted prior art."

The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of these rejections.

At this time, the applicants thank Examiner A. Gilman for taking the time to conduct a personal interview with the applicants' undersigned representative on January 15, 2004. Also, the applicants' undersigned representative thank Examiner Gilman for the courtesy extended to him during the interview.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/986,643
Response dated January 20, 2004
Reply to OA of October 20, 2003

During such interview, it was submitted that the applicants' claimed structural arrangements, as set forth in independent claim 1, as filed in the Amendment of July 23, 2003, are not disclosed in the cited prior art references, singly or in combination. More particularly, it was specifically pointed out to the Examiner that the forward end of the claimed pin tab terminal 10 "is located rearward from the front surface of the terminal cover piece [15]" when the base body side connector and the movable body side connector are disengaged. On the other hand, in the Myers reference, the tip 5 of the insulated connector pin 3 extends beyond the side portion of the pin seal carrier 6, as illustrated in Myers' Figure 1.

Moreover, the Examiner was respectfully referred to the advantages and benefits derived from the applicants' above-discussed distinguishable claimed structural arrangements, as set forth in lines 3 - 10, page 7 of the applicants' specification.

Furthermore, it was respectfully pointed out that the related art shown in the applicants' Figure 5 has a similar problem with respect to the expanded tab terminal 55 for the reasons discussed in lines 5 - 17, page 4 of the applicants' specification.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/986,643
Response dated January 20, 2004
Reply to OA of October 20, 2003

Based on the above arguments, the Examiner indicated that the claimed invention, as set forth in amended claim 1, as filed on July 23, 2003, is distinguishable over the prior art of record¹ to which the applicants and their undersigned representative respectfully acknowledge with appreciation. The Examiner reserved his right to conduct additional search.

For the reasons discussed above, claims 2 - 6, which depend on independent claim 1, should now be similarly allowable.

In view of the above, the withdrawal of the outstanding obviousness rejections under 35 USC 103(a) based on Myers, singly or in combination with the "admitted prior art" is in order, and is therefore respectfully solicited.

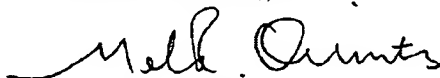
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

¹Please see the Examiner Interview Summary Record dated January 15, 2004.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



Mel R. Quintos
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 31,898

MRQ/lrj/ipc

Atty. Docket No. 011499
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

H:\HOMES\MEL\TRANSFER\011499 RESPONSE REMARKS ONLY.doc 1-20-04